1295 SEP 23 1999

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Public Comment

Date Sept 23, 1999

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program welcomes your participation. Please use the space below for your written comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Comments:

Having attended the Sept 22 Public Hearing I wish to supplement the comments contained in my Sept 21, 1999 letter. I still believe that efficiency and conservation should receive the highest priority. I feel that a minimum goal should the 4.5 MAF shown in Table 4-15 of the Water Efficiency Plan. I also feel that the costs will be closer to the minimum of around $100 AF/YR as shown in Table 4-18 of the Water Use Efficiency Plan. I strongly feel that the water saved through efficency should be use for "in-stream" purposes and not to support urban (see pg 2

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page 2 and 3 are attached

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development that is resulting in a degradation of the quality of life in Calif. I also feel that the cost of the water savings can be absorbed in the system without a large increase in the cost of agricultural products. The grower should not be made to absorb all the cost.

Land retirement (of marginal lands) should be given serious consideration and priority. It should be noted that the agricultural community has been willing sellers of prime land for the purposes of urban development. The lands retired should be held in perpetuity for open space and habitat purposes.

It should also be noted the agriculture has been recipient of public (goverment) subsidized water at the expense of our natural resources and enviroment.

I feel that the $264 million allocated for Delta levee restoration may not be justified. Protecting the lands in the lower Delta may not be cost effective.

I feel that the watershed management program cost of $210 million should be substantially increased. This program could provide multiple benefit including increased water yield, enhanced water quality, flood risk reduction, erosion and sediment reduction, wildlife habital, and fisheries enhancement.

Again I wish to commend CALFED on the development of a comphrensive program that attempts to balance priorities. I regret that this program is based on the assumption of continued rapid population growth. It has been

clearly shown in areas such as Carmel and my "home town" of Escalon that growth can be constrained by limited infrastructure and resources such as water supply. The growth that has been projected can only further degrade our quality of life and ultimately be self ~~defeated~~ defeating. It provides near term benefits at the expense of future generations

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Rick Betts